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No 74

The PRINCE.

An Epigram, originally written by George Buchanan *to* Thomas Randolph, *in a better Language, and with more Art, but upon a leſs Occaſion.*

27 June 1711

AT Your Requeſt, SIR! which to me's Command;
Accept a Sketch, by my unskilful Hand,
Of ſuch a PRINCE as Heart cou'd wiſh a Land.

Firſt let Himſelf religious be, and then
A conſtant Fav'rer of religious Men.
That he is GOD's Vice-gerent, let him prove
Not from mere Pow'r; but Wiſdom, Juſtice, Love,
And from each imitable Attribute above.
Let him the Bleſſings of calm Peace prefer,
But ſtill be ready for defenſive War;
And, when its Grounds in Victory ſhall ceaſe,
Lay-down both Sword and Enmity with Eaſe.
Let not his Hand be ſparing or profuſe,
Since Each of publick Treaſure's an Abuſe.

Let

Let this grand Truth be by my PRINCE allow'd,
That Kings are made but for their Countries Good.
If Subjects into Party-Quarrels fall,
Let him be Common-Parent ſtill to All.
When flagrant Crimes urge neceſſary Cauſe,
Let a forc'd Rigour execute the Laws:
When proper Caſes room for Mercy give,
Then let him uſe his mild Prerogative.
So let him live, that his pure COURT may be
The ſtrong Exemplar of Morality.
May all his Frowns be by the Vicious fear'd,
And to the Virtuous all his Smiles endear'd.
Let him, to pompous Outſide leſs inclin'd,
Place his chief State in Ornaments of Mind:
Let princely Reaſon in his Breaſt preſide,
And baniſh from it Luxury and Pride.
Your Servant, SIR! well, you're a pleaſant Man!
Your Fraud is pious, blame it if they can;
You meant Εικων-Βασιλικη of *ANNE*.

LONDON: Printed for BERNARD LINTOTT, at the *Croſs-Keys* between the two Temple-Gates in *Fleet-ſtreet*. 1711. (Price 2 *d.*)